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Fee 4c

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: CHURCHILL et al. Docket No: 18567-0011
Serial No: 09/422,114 Group Art Unit: 3628
Filed: October 20, 1999 Examiner: Graham, Clement B.
For: AUCTION REDEMPTION SYSTEM AND METHOD

Box Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed May 23, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks:

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims 15-37:

15. (NEW) A point-based auction system comprising:

2 a database storing a first account representing a number of incentive points awarded to a
3 first user and a second account representing a number of incentive points awarded to a second
4 user;

5 a communications port operatively connected to the first user and the second user;

6 a computer program or programs taking as input bids received from the first user and the
7 second user through the communications port, each bid constituting a number of incentive points
8 and relating to an item being auctioned, said program (a) checking each bid against the database
9 to confirm that the user submitting the bid owns at least the number of points specified in the bid,
10 (b) storing information identifying the current high bid, (c) reserving a number of points equal to
11 the current high bid from the account of the user who submitted that bid such that those points
12 may not be used for any other purpose until unreserved, (d) unreserving reserved points once a

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